

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-81. (Cancelled)

82. (New) A method comprising:

a first device coupled to a network sending a request to a second device coupled to the network to access a traditional instrument, wherein the traditional instrument is coupled to the second device via an instrumentation bus, wherein an instrument driver is required by the second device to communicate with the traditional instrument, wherein the second device is not configured with the instrument driver, wherein the traditional instrument does not include inherent Internet capabilities, and wherein the instrumentation bus is not the Internet;

the second device receiving the request to access the traditional instrument;

the second device receiving the instrument driver in response to said receiving the request to access the traditional instrument, wherein the instrument driver is downloaded directly from the network, and wherein the instrument driver is usable by the second device to communicate with the traditional instrument;

the second device accessing the traditional instrument via the instrumentation bus in response to said request to access the traditional instrument;

the traditional instrument sending instrument data to the second device via the instrumentation bus in response to the second device accessing the traditional instrument;

the second device receiving the instrument data sent from the traditional instrument via the instrumentation bus; and

the second device sending the instrument data to the first device via the network.

83. (New) The method of claim 82, further comprising displaying on the first device a graphical user interface to the traditional instrument coupled to the second

device, wherein the graphical user interface is operable by the user to remotely control functionality of the traditional instrument from the second device.

84. (New) The method of claim 82, further comprising:
the first device receiving the instrument data from the second device via the network; and
displaying the received instrument data on the first device.

85. (New) The method of claim 82, wherein the first device comprises a web browser, wherein the request to access the traditional instrument is generated in response to user input to the web browser program.

86. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein the user input that generates the request to access the traditional instrument is received by the web browser in a web page provided by the second device.

87. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein the web page provides a graphical user interface to the traditional instrument coupled to the second device.

88. (New) The method of claim 82, wherein the second device comprises an instrument server, and wherein the second device accessing the traditional instrument comprises:

the instrument server accessing the instrument driver for the traditional instrument; and

the instrument driver accessing the traditional instrument via the instrumentation bus in response to the instrument server accessing the instrument driver.

89. (New) The method of claim 82, further comprising, prior to the first device sending the request to access the traditional instrument:

the instrument server providing instrument information about one or more traditional instruments coupled to the second device to the first device through the

network, wherein the one or more traditional instruments include the traditional instrument; and

displaying the instrument information about the one or more traditional instruments on the first device.

90. (New) The method of claim 82, wherein a plurality of traditional instruments including the traditional instrument are coupled to the second device via the instrumentation bus, and wherein the first device is operable to send requests to access each of the plurality of traditional instruments to the second device.

91. (New) The method of claim 82, further comprising the second device:
detecting one or more traditional instruments coupled to the instrumentation bus including the traditional instrument;
receiving instrument information from each of the detected one or more traditional instruments; and
providing the instrument information from the one or more detected traditional instruments to the first device;
wherein the one or more traditional instruments are user-selectable from the first device using the instrument information.

92. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the instrumentation bus is one of a GPIB instrumentation bus, a PCI instrumentation bus, a PXI instrumentation bus, and a serial instrumentation bus.

93. (New) A device comprising:
a first port operable to couple to a network;
a second port operable to couple to an instrumentation bus, wherein the instrumentation bus is not the Internet;
a processor; and

memory coupled to the processor and operable to store program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable by the processor to:

detect a first traditional instrument coupled to the instrumentation bus, wherein a first instrument driver is required by the device to communicate with the traditional instrument, wherein the device is not configured with the first instrument driver;

receive, from the network, the first instrument driver which is associated with the first traditional instrument in response to the detection of the first traditional instrument, wherein the first instrument driver comprises program instructions which are executable by the processor to communicate and/or control the first traditional instrument; and

store the first instrument driver in the memory.

94. (New) The device of claim 93,

wherein the program instructions are further executable by the processor to:

receive, from a second device coupled to the network, a request to access the first traditional instrument;

wherein the first instrument driver comprises program instructions which are executable by the processor to:

access the first traditional instrument through the instrumentation bus; and

receive data sent from the first traditional instrument.

95. (New) The device of claim 94,

wherein the program instructions are further executable by the processor to:

transmit the data to the network.

96. (New) The device of claim 95,

wherein, in said transmitting the data to the network, the program instructions are further executable by the processor to transmit a web page to the network, wherein the web page comprises the data.

97. (New) The device of claim 93,
wherein the program instructions are further executable by the processor to:
detect a second traditional instrument coupled to the instrumentation bus;
receive, from the network, a second instrument driver which is associated
with the second traditional instrument in response to the detection of the second
instrument, wherein the second instrument driver comprises program instructions which
are executable by the processor to communicate and/or control the second traditional
instrument; and
store the second instrument driver in the memory.

98. (New) The device of claim 97,
wherein the program instructions are further executable by the processor to:
receive, from a second device coupled to the network, a request to access
the second traditional instrument;
wherein the second instrument driver comprises program instructions which are
executable by the processor to:
access the second traditional instrument through the instrumentation bus;
and
receive data from the second traditional instrument.

99. (New) The device of claim 98,
wherein the program instructions are further executable by the processor to:
transmit the data to the network.

100. (New) The device of claim 99,
wherein, in said transmitting the data to the network, the program
instructions are further executable by the processor to transmit a web page to the
network, wherein the web page comprises the data.

101. (New) A method for using a traditional instrument with a network,
comprising:

a first device detecting the traditional instrument, wherein the first device is coupled to the traditional instrument, wherein the first device is not coupled to the traditional instrument via the Internet, wherein an instrument driver is required by the first device to communicate with the traditional instrument, wherein the first device is not configured with the instrument driver, and wherein the first device is coupled to the network;

automatically receiving, from the network, the instrument driver which is associated with the traditional instrument, wherein the instrument driver comprises program instructions which are executable by the first device to communicate with the traditional instrument; and

after said receiving, communicating with the traditional instrument, wherein said communicating comprises using the instrument driver.

102. (New) The method of claim 101,

wherein said automatically receiving comprises downloading the instrument driver from a second device coupled to the network.

103. (New) The method of claim 101, further comprising:

receiving from the network a request for information associated with the instrument;

wherein said communicating with the traditional instrument is performed in response to said receiving from the network the request;

the method further comprising:

transmitting a response to the network.

104. (New) The method of claim 103,

wherein the request comprises a request for a measurement.

105. (New) A computer-accessible memory medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable by a processor to implement:

scanning an instrumentation bus coupled to a first device to detect instruments coupled to the instrumentation bus;

detecting a first traditional instrument coupled to the instrumentation bus, wherein an instrument driver is required by the first device to communicate with the first traditional instrument, wherein the first device is not configured with the instrument driver, wherein the first traditional instrument does not include inherent Internet capabilities, and wherein the instrumentation bus is not the Internet;

receiving instrument information from the detected first traditional instrument in response to said detecting the first traditional instrument;

transmitting to a network a request for the instrument driver which corresponds to the instrument information, wherein the instrument driver is usable to communicate with the first traditional instrument;

receiving the instrument driver from the network;

providing the instrument information of the first traditional instrument to a second device coupled to the first device via the network; and

displaying the instrument information of the first traditional instrument on the second device;

wherein the first traditional instrument coupled to the first device via the instrumentation bus is remotely accessible from the second device to initiate monitor and control functions of the first traditional instrument.

106. (Previously Presented) The computer-accessible memory medium of claim 105, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

receiving user input on the second device, wherein the user input specifies the first traditional instrument; and

sending a request to access the first traditional instrument from the second device to the first device through the network in response to the user input.